Hib. 4. 682. 2.

A

LETTER

From His GRACE

JAMES

DUKE OF

ORMOND,

Lord Lieutenant of *IRELAND*,

In Anſwer to the Right Honourable

ARTHUR

EARL OF

ANGLESEY

Lord Privy-Seal,

HIS

OBSERVATIONS & REFLECTIONS

Upon the EARL of

Caſtlehaven's Memoires

Concerning the

REBELLION of *IRELAND*.

And Concerning which, the Complaint of the Duke of *Ormond* in Council now depends againſt the Earl of *Angleſey*, Lord Privy-Seal.

Printed from the Original, with an Anſwer to it, by the Right Honourable the Earl of *Angleſey*.

LONDON, Printed in the Year 1682. And are to be ſold by *R. Baldwin* in the *Old-Baily*.

08-1755

A LETTER

From His GRACE

JAMES

DUKE OF

ORMOND, &c.

My Lord,

IT is now, I think, more than a year ſince I firſt ſaw a little Book written by way of Letter, called, *Obſervations and Reflections on my Lord of* Caſtle-Haven's *Memoires*: Wherein, though there are ſome things that might lead the Reader to believe that your Lordſhip was the Author; yet there were many more I thought impoſſible ſhould come from you: for it affirms many Matters of Fact poſitively, which are eaſily and authentically to be diſproved; and from thoſe Matters of Fact, groſly miſtaken, it deduces Conſequences, raiſes Inferences, and ſcatters Glances injurious to the memory of the Dead, and the Honours of ſome Living; among thoſe that by the Bleſſing of God are yet living, I find my ſelf worſt Treated; Twenty years after the Kings Reſtauration, and Forty after the beginning of the *Iriſh* Rebellion, as if it had been all that while reſerved for me, and for ſuch Times as theſe we are fallen into, when Calumny, though the Matter of it be never ſo groundleſs and improbable, meets with Credulity; and when Liberty is taken to Aſperſe Men, and Repreſent them to the World under the monſtrous and odious figures of Papiſts, or Popiſhly affected; not becauſe they are ſo thought by thoſe that employ the Repreſenters, but becauſe they are known to be too good Proteſtants, and too Loyal Subjects, to joyn in the Deſtruction of the Crown, and Church: Beſides, the Treatiſe came forth, and muſt have been written, when I had but newly received Repeated Aſſurances of the continuance of your Friendſhip to me, wherein, as in one of your Letters, you are pleaſed to ſay, you had never made a falſe ſtep; for theſe Reaſons I was not willing to believe that Book to be of your Lordſhips Compoſing, and hoped ſome of the Suborned Libellers of the Age had endeavoured to Imitate your Lordſhip, and not you them; but I was in a while after, firſt by my Son *Arran*, and afterward by the Bearer, Sir *Robert Reading*, aſſured your Lordſhip had owned to them that the Piece was yours, but profeſt the Publication to be without your Order, and that you did not intend to

do, or think that you had done me any injury or prejudice: If your Lordſhip really thought ſo, the Publication might have been owned as well as what was Publiſhed: But then let the World Judge, whether Pen, Ink, and Paper are not dangerous Tools in your Hands? When I was thus aſſured your Lordſhip was the Author, it coſt me ſome thoughts how to vindicate Truth, my Maſter the late King, my ſelf, my Actions and Family, all Reflected on and traduced by that Pamphlet; I found my ſelf ingaged in the Service of our preſent King, and that in a Time of difficulty and danger, and in ſuch Times for the moſt part it has been my lot to be Employed in Publick Affairs; and though I had not been ſo taken up, yet I well knew that Writing upon ſuch Occaſions is no more my Talent, than it is my Delight: And to ſay truth, my indiſpoſition to the exerciſe might help to perſwade me, that the Book, though honoured with your Lordſhips Name, would, after it had performed its Office in *Coffee-Houſes*, and ſerved your Lordſhips Deſign in that Conjuncture, expire; as writings of that nature and force uſually do: And herein I reſted, without troubling my ſelf, or any body elſe, with Animadverſions upon your Lordſhips miſtakes, which are ſo many and ſo obvious, that I wonder how you could fall into them. I will add to this, that I have been in expectation that by this time your Compleat Hiſtory would have come forth, wherein, if I may judge by the Pattern, I have juſt cauſe to ſuſpect that neither the Subject or my ſelf will be more juſtly dealt with, than in that occaſional Eſſay, and I would have been glad to have ſeen all my Work before me, in caſe I ſhould think fit to make a Work of it. The delay of your Publiſhing that Hiſtory, and the conſideration of your Lordſhips Age and mine, are the occaſions of this Letter, whereby I inform you, that as no man now alive is better able than I am to give an account of the Principal Tranſactions during the Rebellion in *Ireland*; ſo no man is poſſeſſed of more Authentick Commiſſions, Inſtruments, and Papers; all which, or Tranſcripts of them, you might have Commanded before you ſet forth your Reflections: But poſſibly to have ſtayed for them, might have loſt you a ſeaſonable opportunity of Publiſhing your abhorrence of the *Iriſh* Rebellion, and your Zeal againſt Popery: What your Lordſhip might then have had, you may yet have becauſe I had rather help to prevent than detect Errours, but then I muſt firſt know to what particular part of your Hiſtory you deſire Information, and how you deliver thoſe parts to the World and to Poſterity. If after this Offer your Lordſhip ſhall proceed to the Concluſion and Publication of your Hiſtory, and not accept of it, I muſt before hand Appeal from you, as from an Incompetent Judge of my Actions, and a partially engaged and an unfaithful Hiſtorian.

My Lord,

Dublin, 12.
Nov. 1681.

Your Lordſhips moſt

Humble ſervant,

ORMOND.